

NEWS BREAK

Article: **At home, with friends**

Section: **MAIN, A1**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, May 11, 2025**, of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

****Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will think critically about different perspectives on housing, community, and the evolving nature of modern life.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using this picture?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the meaning of the word.

Sharing ownership can yield big **dividends** Affordability and a sense of community.

Dividends Guess:

Dividends Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is co-homeownership and why are some friends seeking it out?
2. In Seattle, rising interest in co-homeownership is so evident that a new crop of housing developments and real estate companies is emerging specifically to sell “fractional” homes — what are they?
3. Gone are the days of the affordable _____.
4. Welcome to the era of the starter home share. How can it help people with home ownership?
5. But it can also come with pitfalls. What are they?
6. What age groups are among the demographics most interested in co-homeownership?
7. The two bought the property as a _____ with each owning a percentage proportional to the amount they contributed to the home price.
8. Last summer, developers completed construction on Corvidae Co-op in Rainier Valley, an affordable-housing project of 10 residences built across two single-family lots. Each residence consists of a private studio or one- or two-bedroom unit, as well as access to shared laundry, kitchens and a courtyard. Units ranged between \$_____ and \$_____ in price. The development sold out quickly; the sale of the last unit is currently pending.

Class Discussion Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought _____, but now I think _____?
- Do you know anyone that lives in a co-ownership housing model? Do they like it?
- Could you see yourself using this model of home ownership? Why or why not?

Deeper-Dive comprehension questions for small groups, entire classes or journal entries and/ or essay prompts for extended enrichment

- What does it mean to be a "family"? How does the article show that the idea of family might be changing? Do you think friends can be like family? Why or why not?
- What are some of the challenges of living with other people, even if you like them? How do you think the people in the article are trying to solve these challenges?
- Why do you think it's becoming harder for some people to buy homes on their own? What are some of the reasons mentioned in the article?
- The article talks about "community." What does that word mean to you? How does sharing a home help build a sense of community?
- Think about a time you shared something important with someone else. What were the benefits? What were some of the difficulties? How might sharing a home be similar or different?
- The friends in the article made agreements about how they would share their homes and money. Why do you think it's important to have these kinds of agreements? What might happen if they didn't have them?
- If you were going to share a home with friends in the future, what are some things that would be important to you in that living situation?
- The article highlights the economic factors driving co-homeownership, such as rising housing costs. How do these economic realities impact traditional notions of the "American Dream" of homeownership?
- How does co-homeownership challenge or redefine traditional notions of the "nuclear family" as the primary unit of housing and social support? What are the potential social benefits and drawbacks of these alternative living arrangements?

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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